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E. A. Meade

Eric A. Meade

REG. NO. 42,876

10-30-03

DATE

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Attorney Docket No. BM45323

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ruelle, Jean-Louis

Group Art Unit: 1645

Serial No.: 09/701,271

Examiner: Baskar, Padmavathi

Filed: March 11, 2002

For: *Neisseria meningitidis* Antigenic Polypeptides, Corresponding Polynucleotides and Protective Antibodies

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND SUPPLEMENTAL
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Introductory Remarks:

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed September 30, 2003 (Paper No. 4, herein referred to as "Office Action"). Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment and reconsideration of the application in view thereof.

It is believed that entry of this Amendment is timely filed on or before October 30, 2003. Notwithstanding, should this Paper not be considered timely filed, Applicant hereby requests a retroactive extension of time to file for the number of months required to maintain pendency of the Application.